IGF Dynamic Coalitions & the Sustainable Development Goals
♦ Youth Coalition on Internet Governance

The Youth Coalition on Internet Governance (YCIG) works on ensuring that the Internet Governance ecosystem remains open and inclusive to youth views and perspectives from around the world. Youth in particular will suffer the most if the SDGs are not met, simply due to the reality of longevity. The fact is that not meeting the SDGs is *our* problem, involving and motivating youth to participate in realizing the SDGs is essential – especially given the high proportion of youth populations around the world, such as in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA). Ultimately, the benefits of work, innovation, and economic growth will be best utilized by having an informed and skillful youth force. To achieve this however, prevailing inequalities need to be addressed. We in the YCIG Community strongly believe that any decision taken without considering the perspectives of youth would not be useful in the long-term.

For this reason the YCIG Steering Committee is committed to advocate for representation, promote participation and empower political inclusion (SDG 10.2) of youth as is outlined in the Charter of YCIG. This year especially, the YCIG Working Group on Youth Participation at the IGF focuses on SDG 10.2 but also advocates for women's full and effective participation (SDG 5.5) on the IGF panels.

The YCIG Steering Committee is designed to accommodate the UN Regional Groups to ensure that each region has a representative that can support youth participation in international organisations and institutions that are engaging in their regions. However, unlike SDG 10.6, YCIG does not specifically "***enhance*** *representation and voice for developing countries*[1]", but try to ensure that youth from each region is **equally** represented and heard in these institutions, especially at the IGF. However, we do commit to increase engagement of developing countries at the IGF (SDG 16.8) to be able to strengthen their participation. We specifically rely on our members to actively engage with each other and build partnerships. Throughout the year, we connect academia, private stakeholders, public stakeholders, the tech industry and citizens to collaborate on projects and events (SDG 17.17), which we hope will result in successful research and projects for 2019 (SDG 9B).

The YCIG Community is diverse and consists from stakeholders in a variety of different expert fields, which cover a variety of different SDG goals. However, this year, YCIG members actively engage with peer-to-peer learning in the domains of media, digital and cybersecurity literacy where young people engage in projects and give back to the communities from which they have received training and support to teach the new year of incoming internet governance students such as Digital Grassroots. This type of engagement increases promotion of the internet governance field and includes the learning of vocational and technical skills that accommodate the new job market (SDG 4.4 & SDG 8.6). This is clearly noticeable in events such as YOUthDIG (EuroDIG youth event) and SEEDIG where youth are invited as participants but then grow to become organisers, Focal Points and volunteers.

Besides people, we believe that we also must look at processes and technology. This is primarily being addressed by YCIG members who are working in particular advocacy areas, such as coding workshops, teaching Internet Governance, factchecking and running women SIG.localization and a women STEM campaign, among others. However, young people often do not know they are working in an advocacy area because they work towards changing something within their society, rather than meeting political goals. Therefore, the YCIG Steering Committee aims to guide and provide access to information that ensures that people everywhere have the relevant information and awareness for sustainable development and lifestyles in harmony with nature (SDG 12.8) and finding stakeholders to support each other (SDG17.17). At IGF 2016, the Collaborative Leadership Exchange (CLX) brought together young leaders or professionals from around the world to discuss the role of SDG on internet governance and development and wrote recommendations[2] on how young people can create greater impact and we encourage the YCIG community to build on these recommendations (SDG 12.8).

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[1] https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/sdg10 (accessed 2 October 2018)

[2] https://www.diplomacy.edu/blog/12-step-guide-implementing-sdgs